

THE BIG ISSUE

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S.C. DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG ABUSE SERVICES

SOUTH CAROLINA BANS POWDERED ALCOHOL



On June 6, Gov. Nikki Haley signed into law a bill banning powdered alcohol in South Carolina.

The bill came to the Governor's desk

after House members agreed 96-0 with an earlier Senate decision.

Selling alcohol in powder form isn't legal in the United States, but one company is seeking permission through federal regulators.

Senate Judiciary chairman Larry Martin proposed the ban in May after learning about the potential product called "Palcohol." He contended that powdered alcohol could be a huge concern, as it would circumvent South Carolina laws that define alcohol as a liquid.

Martin believes that could allow people under 21 to buy the product.

Banning it "gives us time to determine what we need to do to our laws to regulate it and prevent it being sold in convenience stores to children," said Martin (R-Pickens).

South Carolina joins a handful of states that have banned the product.

U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) has asked the Food and Drug Administration via letter to prevent Palcohol from reaching store shelves this fall, saying it would become "the Kool-Aid of teen binge drinking."

Palcohol's parent company plans to offer six varieties of powdered alcohol, including vodka, rum and four cocktails.

(source: Associated Press)

DAODAS FDA EFFORT Is #5 IN THE NATION

In 2009, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) was tasked with regulating the manufacture, marketing, and distribution of tobacco products to protect the public health and to reduce tobacco use by minors. To accomplish this, the FDA has contracted with many states to act as the enforcement arm of these regulations. DAODAS obtained a contract with the FDA to enforce the federal Tobacco Control Act in September 2012 and began its inspection program in April 2013.

South Carolina was one of the last states in the nation to start this program, and many were established for three or more years before the Palmetto State. However, as of May 30, 2014, the inspection program in South Carolina is #1 nationwide in the total number of inspections

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DIRECTOR'S CORNER

As you will read elsewhere in this edition of *The Big Issue*, Frankie Long, Treatment Coordinator for DAODAS, received two national awards at the recent Annual Meeting of the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) in Omaha, Neb. She is certainly deserving of both, and of the accolades that accompanied the presentation. Congratulations, Frankie!

Michelle Nienhuis and Lee Dutton also attended the conference on behalf of DAODAS, and our South Carolina team successfully pitched and secured Charleston as the site of NASADAD's 2015 Annual Meeting. Lee reports that the vote was unanimous. We certainly look forward to our hosting role, and to "showing off" some of the wonderful work of our local service providers.

So please mark May 31 - June 3, 2015, on your calendars. We encourage all our friends and partners to support and attend this event. Stay tuned to *The Big Issue* for further news about the agenda and opportunities to help welcome our sister state programs from around the United States.

A handwritten signature in black ink.



DAODAS TREATMENT COORDINATOR RECEIVES NATIONAL HONORS

Frankie Long, Treatment Coordinator for DAODAS, was honored during the Annual Meeting of the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors held June 2-5 in Omaha, Neb.

Long received the National Treatment Network (NTN) Representative of the Year Award for "Outstanding Support of the NTN While Exhibiting Commitment and Dedication to the Field of Substance Abuse Treatment."

She also was the recipient of the Women's Services Network Leadership Achievement Award.



Frankie Long and
NTN President Dave Felt

KUDOS TO... South Carolina's Alcohol Enforcement Teams for being a "Featured Success Story" in the June edition of *Resource Alert*, an online newsletter of the national Underage Drinking Enforcement Training Center.

NEW REGULATION WILL AID FIGHT AGAINST PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE

Legislation went into effect June 6 that directs dispensers of drugs covered under the controlled substances act to submit daily reports of prescription information to the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). The new regulation also allows an authorized delegate to have access to DHEC's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) and to submit similar information to the department.

The expansion of the PDMP's capacity is part of the state's efforts to combat prescription drug abuse, which are being spearheaded by the Governor's Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Council.

The National Center for Disease Control has classified prescription drug abuse as a national epidemic.

TRAINING

2014 Prevention of Youth Substance Abuse in Rural Communities: Bringing Hope to Communities in Despair – August 6-8 – University of South Carolina, Lancaster, SC

The DSM-5 for Addiction Clinicians – August 6 – LRADAC Education Center, Columbia, SC

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South Carolina
DAODAS
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INVESTING IN ADDICTION TREATMENT IS GOOD POLICY

by Linda Rosenberg, President & CEO, National Council for Behavioral Health

Policymakers are slowly coming to terms with what addiction experts have known for some time. The United States is in the midst of a heroin and prescription drug epidemic, one that is wreaking havoc in small towns and big cities alike. More than 100 people die in this country every day as a result of a drug overdose. In fact, deaths from drug overdoses have increased five-fold since 1980, outnumbering deaths from car crashes for the first time in U.S. history....

Sadly, there are many obstacles to receiving treatment beyond simply the will to seek it out. For millions of people, quality treatment is simply not available. Even before the "Great Recession," getting treatment was out of reach for many Americans....

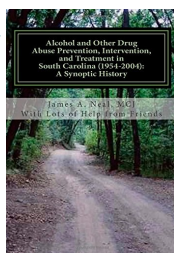
Good people disagree on how best to spend taxpayer dollars, especially when it comes to government spending for social services. But when it comes to addiction treatment, the answer seems clear. Untreated addictions are estimated to cost \$365 billion every year in terms of related health care costs, lost work productivity and crime. Investing in treatment is not only good health policy; it is good fiscal policy.

(For the complete op-ed, visit www.thenationalcouncil.org/lindas-corner-office/2014/04/investing-in-addiction-treatment/)

HOT OFF THE PRESSES!

Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment in South Carolina (1954-2004): A Synoptic History by

former DAODAS Director of Programs and Services James A. Neal is now available from Amazon.



(FDA Effort...Continued from page 1)

(12,537) completed by a new program. In addition, DAODAS' program is fifth in the nation for all programs. "We are only 448 inspections from taking the #4 spot from Texas' program, which has been established for four years," said Chris Phillips, FDA Project Coordinator for DAODAS.